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SECURITY INFORMATION

1 December 1952

TO : Deputy Director/Intelligence

FROM : Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Approval of Funds for External Research

1. Problem

To obtain approval for the expenditure of [redacted] for the services of [redacted], who will undertake research on three problems in the area of Soviet agriculture. 25X1A5a1 25X1A

2. Discussion

First, having participated in Soviet agricultural planning, this former raion land director for the Ministry of Agriculture in the USSR (equivalent of our county agent) is uniquely qualified to describe in detail the processes of drawing up plans, control of their fulfillment, and procedures of collecting production data on which planners make projections in KOLKHOZ and SOVKHOZ management (the statistical forms actually used here are of critical importance, as are the persons reporting and receiving reports, etc.)

Second, an understanding of the degree of mechanization in agriculture, the efficiency of the agrarian labor force, and the performance norms of various kinds of agricultural machinery qualifies this source to ascertain to what extent these issues directly affect POL (Petroleum, Oil, Lubricants) consumption in agriculture. Two most important factors in estimating POL requirements of Soviet agriculture are the number of individual tractors, by types, in the Soviet park, and the POL consumption of combine harvesters. The source will be able in both instances, it is felt, to provide ORR with some precise quantitative estimates. Further, these estimates will be useful in determining the size of the Soviet POL stockpile and allocations to other consumers.

Third, in all estimates of Soviet crop yields, the range allowed for loss is both large and controversial. This range, for example, can be the difference in 85 million tons harn yield and 95 million tons. A five per cent range could be of great significance in the question of availability of grains for stockpiling. Miscalculations of either the mechanical efficiency of the harvesting operations or of what is meant by the term "biological yield" in current Soviet usage could result in serious errors affecting intelligence on Soviet capabilities. It is not contended that the source can completely resolve this question, but he can bring to it the benefit of his own experience and the techniques of a Russian agronomist.

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This project has been coordinated in accordance with CIA Regulation 50-17. Upon receipt of approval, [redacted] will make the necessary contract arrangements. 25X1A

3. Recommendation

25X1A5a1 That [redacted] be contracted to undertake the above pro-
25X1A jects at remuneration [redacted] for an initial contract of six
25X1A months, [redacted] with the possibility that quality of performance and pros-
pects for future contribution may justify an extension.

25X1A That [redacted] be authorized for this purpose and that the Comptroller be advised to establish the fund on an unvouchered basis.

Coordinated:

25X1A9a /s/ [redacted]

1st Rebey
OIC

Approved:

25X1A9a
[redacted]
Acting DD/I

SA/A/HR: [redacted]/ja 25X1A9a
1 December 1952

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